



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin

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Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced today that Joel Quinones-Meza, 54, Henderson, Nevada, and Froylan Zepeda, 35, Beloit, Wisconsin, were sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb for their involvement in a conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine in Beloit, Wisconsin. Quinones-Meza was sentenced yesterday to 168 months in federal prison, while Zepeda was sentenced today to 132 months in federal prison. Both men pleaded guilty to this charge earlier this year.

The evidence showed that in January and February 2009, Quinones-Meza arranged to have over twenty kilograms of cocaine delivered from a source in California to Zepeda in Beloit, Wisconsin. The deliveries involved transporting the cocaine in hidden compartments in a vehicle. In February, law enforcement discovered fourteen kilograms of that cocaine during a traffic stop of a vehicle traveling between California and Wisconsin. Quinones-Meza's higher sentence was based on the fact that he had two prior felony convictions for drug distribution. Both men are citizens of Mexico, in the United States illegally, and will likely be deported upon release from prison.

The charges against Quinones-Meza and Zepeda were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison and Rockford offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Beloit Police Department, and Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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